

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
OFFICE OF THE CHILD ADVOCATE
165 CAPITOL AVENUE, HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106**



Sarah Healy Eagan, J.D.
Child Advocate

OCA Advisory Committee Meeting
Minutes – May 24, 2023

OCA Staff: Sarah Eagan, Child Advocate; Christina D. Ghio, Associate Child Advocate

Members Present: Shelley Geballe, Rudolph Brooks, Jeanne Milstein, Toni Boucher (via phone)

Members Not Present: Jennifer Collins, and Edwin Colon

1. Review and Approval of the Minutes

Members reviewed the minutes for the April 25 meeting. They do not indicate date for the annual report. Discussion on what date the Committee decided upon for completion of the Advisory Committee annual report. No later than January 1. Today's minutes will be reflect no later than January 1 as the date for the Advisory Committee's annual report. No changes to April 25 minutes.

Shelley Geballe moved to approve the minutes. Rudolph Brooks seconded. Unanimous Vote to approve the minutes.

2. Budget and Legislative Update

The appropriations budget included two positions for OCA. We are still awaiting the outcome of budget talks but hopeful that the positions will be approved as OCA needs additional staff to complete the work.

OCA continues to follow the bill to require creation of a Title IX toolkit for schools. It passed house with some amendment and is awaiting passage by the Senate.

OCA continues to follow a bill and framework for strengthening the continuum of care for caregivers with opioid use disorder. The goal is to have a landscape assessment, barriers analysis, and data driven identification of the holes in the system. OCA continues to be concerned with increasing overdose numbers for adults and continuing critical incidents involving suspected opioid ingestions in very young children. There have been 22 in the last 18 months, all non-fatal because of the administration of Narcan by first responders, which has significant implications for treatment options and Narcan saturation.

There was discussion about whether a public health alert would be appropriate and about policy work around Narcan distribution. OCA will be publishing an infant toddler report in the near future. That report will look at infant toddler deaths over the last three years, with a particular focus on the need for differentiated practice and care for children under the age of three and quality assurance, particularly for cases involving very young children who remain in-home after substantiation. Discussion regarding OCA's role in relation to quality assurance in a post Juan F. world followed.

OCA continues to work on legislation related to transparency for SDE's IDEA monitoring and enforcement. Some, but not all of OCA's language, is included in SB 1200. OCA continues to work on getting additional language to ensure transparency for SDE's monitoring and enforcement related to IDEA.

3. Investigation Updates

Motion to go into Executive Session to discuss confidential fatality investigation, by Jeanne Milstein. Seconded by Shelly Geballe. All voted in favor.

Executive Session

Discussion regarding confidential information related to Baby Liam and Baby Camilla.

Following confidential discussion, a motion to return to regular session was made by Shelley Geballe and seconded by Rudolph Brooks. All voted in favor.

4. Return to Regular Session

Next meeting will be June 27, 2023 at 5:30.